

Leicester, June 21, 1861.

Dear Burleigh;

Our Exec. Comtee had a meet^g. in Boston yesterday. I was present. - It was held mainly to consider the ways & means of future operations, or rather of our ability long to continue our present ones; & James & Lucretia Mott were with us in consultation on the subject. - A pretty general reduction of salaries is contemplated for one thing.

The Comtee finding the great length to which the Report for 1859-60 is already extended (210 pp. and not yet completed) desire its completion in the most succinct manner compatible with a due regard to having it in tolerable proportion to the portion already done. From the long time elapsed since we rec^d. any Mss. from you, it is supposed that a considerable amt. of Mss. has accumulated,

and, supposing that you would read the
balance of 1859-60 before commencing 1860-61,
we conclude the former year to be not yet
finished. The Comtee's wish is, that it sh^d.
be ~~presented~~ ^{finished}, & sent on as soon as possible;
(as before to C. K. Whipple, care R. F. W. 221
W. St.)

The Comtee also passed the following
vote. (not having the record before me I ~~do not~~ give
the precise language perhaps). That C. C. B.
be requested, in writing the Report for 1860-61,
to restrict the same within the compass of one
hundred pages. I give you the earliest

notice of this I could possibly, - The Comtee
were unanimous in this vote; and equally
unanimous in wishing you to understand that ^{there is} ~~no~~
other reason but a financial one for it. Our
means are diminished - our income, (in these
times,) is greatly lessened; we must not

61,
nicer debts which we cannot pay; we
must "cut our coat according to our cloth",
and the Comtee are not by any means sure
of their ability to print the report for 1860-1, even
when written. - I am so sorry it was not
all done by May 1st, when the work would
have gone right through, & the whole be printed
and be before the world, - our clean & full record.

I regret exceedingly to tell you of another
vote the Comtee passed, (by one majority only,
I think; and I am not without hopes that it
may be reconsidered) - viz. To proceed and
publish, so soon as you have completed it, the
Report for 1859-60, by itself. I protested strongly
against this, - as bad policy, every way; but I
protested in vain. [The Comtee seemed somewhat
alarmed at the financial aspects of the times - extra news,]

If I could represent to the Comtee a
pretty encouraging prospect for the finishing up of
both years, I am fair to hope I could succeed in

getting a reconsideration of the said vote, so that
both years might come at once; and we stand
as a Society, in regard to our Reports, abreast
of the times, & not lag behind so disreputably
as at present. To this end, please write
me here, at once & tell me -

1. When 1859-60 will be done? (as near as you can)
2. How Much Mss. of 1859-60 you have on
hand, (or have written,) beyond the 210 pp
wh. Prentiss had printed up to yesterday?
3. How many printed pages will said
additional Mss. make?
4. In what time could you (in all human
probability) complete the Report for 60-61
on the basis of 100 pages?

I am, Very truly Yours

Saml. May Jr.

MS. B. 1.6 v. 8. p. 62

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